

VOXX POP

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ISSUE 14

Youth Wise – p. 3

Gay or Geisha? – p. 4

Bad is Good – p. 6





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Welcome to Mars Hill Church

Stop by any Information Desk after any service or talk with a Connect Team member for a casual introduction to our church community. For more information, sermons, essays and more visit our website at www.marshallchurch.org. If you have additional questions, please email life@marshallchurch.org.

What is Vox Pop?

Vox Pop, "voice of the people," is Mars Hill Church's monthly newspaper. As the 1st century Christian church grew at a supernatural rate, the written word became vital in maintaining communication and community among believers. Not only did the letters of Paul play a huge role in this process, they're in your Bible. Vox Pop is not your Bible. As Mars Hill continues to grow, however, our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will use our imperfect words to foster love between you and me and Him.

From the Editor

Filling the Blank Spaces

By Matthew Winslow

Every month as we put the Vox Pop together, there's always a nagging question in the back of our minds: will we have enough content to fill the right number of pages? We need to have either 16 or 20 pages of content, and we always seem to land a page shy or a page over. Thus, we always have some big, blank white space staring at us. What to do? How to fill that blank space? God is always good and we always find good content (not just filler) to put in, but there's always that stress of the unknown – what if this is the month when we don't have something?

There was a similar situation with the launch of the new Mars Hill: Shoreline site, as well as going to five services: who will be there, and when? Which services will be packed? Which ones will have room for growth? (Of course, having the new times coincide with the football playoffs may not have been the best timing, but I don't think we can blame anyone for not anticipating that particular miracle.) The good news is that even with the playoffs, overall attendance did not significantly dip. The Shoreline service has been such a success that we will be going to two services in mid-February. We will also have an article about the Shoreline site in next month's issue. Meanwhile, we have some pictures (p. 8) from the launch.

We also have this month a set of articles about how Christians can and should respond to technology. Our goal always should be to praise God and to proclaim Jesus, but the question of exactly how to do that can be fraught with perils. In "Games and Technology" and "Everything Bad is Good for You" (p. 6), we work toward defining the relationship between Christian faith and the culture around us. In his review of two recent movies ("Gay or Geisha?", p 4), Pastor James Harleman also looks at how Christians

can use movies to proclaim Jesus.

In his sermon on January 29, Pastor Mark told a hilarious tale of his encounter with a church youth group before he became a Christian. In this issue, we hope to make you aware of a ministry near to the Leary campus that is attempting to connect with high school students in a way that won't end up as one of Pastor Mark's sermon illustrations ("Youth Wise", p. 3).

One further place that we often have blank space is right here where you're reading. I'd love to not have a column space that needs filling each month due to a huge flow of letters. Has anything you've read in Vox Pop sparked your interest? Drop us a line. Last month, Matt Johnson gave us a provocative look at the evils of pre-fab furniture, this month we have an article on the ways video games (and other technologies) can be used to the glory of God. Do you agree? Disagree? Drop us a line, and help us fill this space. ▽

Write to Vox Pop

Send your comments, opinions and ideas to voxpop@marshallchurch.org



Youth Wise Reaching Out in Ballard

By Kevin Hazelton and Greg Ingle

Kids today are growing up in an increasingly confusing and painful youth culture. One of the major concerns for young people today is their ability to trust. Many are consistently experiencing the betrayal and emptiness of being burned by friends, parents, and adults. These recurring instances of abandonment make it hard for kids to trust adults who reach out to them.

It takes more time, effort, and influence to build relationships with a large body of kids than in past generations. Kids' problems and the depth of their needs makes the need for godly adult role models to be in their lives consistently, absolutely critical.

Youth Wise is an organization addressing this vital need. Youth Wise enables post-college adult leaders to work directly with adolescents full-time. Because each leader is more available, they are able to build trusting relationships with a broad spectrum of kids. They act as sounding boards—walking with kids through the struggle of being an adolescent today. They are there for their young friends as they wrestle with the deep issues of abandonment, love, and faith.

Linda Bernard, a Ballard High School parent says, "I can tell you that Youth Wise is an absolute answer to prayer! The Youth Wise leaders are the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing His presence to our school by walking the halls with the kids, building relationships, listening to the hurts and needs, praying, and introducing them to the One who will meet their needs."

One of the vehicles Youth Wise uses to support its full-time workers is a leadership house. Leaders live in community, in a house provided rent-free and utilities-free. They raise their own individual support for their income and other living expenses. The Youth Wise leadership house makes it economically feasible for these leaders to fully invest their time to be a consistent adult presence.

Northwest Seattle Young Life Area Director, Jim Caldwell, says, "These friends are following Jesus as servants at the school and shepherds of kids who are lost and abandoned. Our hope is to see the culture of the school change because lives are being changed one at a time. Youth Wise is giving these guys an amazing opportunity to be missionaries to an increasingly foreign society—the high school. NW Seattle Young Life is proud to partner with them."

Youth Wise leaders make a three-year commitment to work with youth and help serve the community in areas of interest, such as sports, music, or tutoring. The leaders work to serve the local schools, serve as Young Life volunteer

leaders, and work closely with local churches to help give kids an environment for mentorship and support. Through working with churches and getting kids involved with Young Life clubs, camps, and weekly breakfast groups, kids grow in their relationships with their leaders. Then they are able to hear about Jesus Christ in attractive and life-changing ways.

Jeff Vancil, Young Life Regional Director for Greater Seattle, says, "Right under our noses is a youth culture that



feels abandoned by much of society. Hundreds of kids in Ballard feel differently. The Youth Wise leaders' objective is to give every kid in Ballard the opportunity to know what has been done for them in Jesus Christ. They want every kid to be known and loved by someone who loves Jesus. I cannot overstate how grateful I am for their zeal, love, and faith. Now, there are kids who have the Spirit of power, love, and self-discipline through the faithful work of Youth Wise."

Youth Wise is blessed to have a house available for guys to work with kids. They are praying about how to start a women's leadership house. Several gifted women are interested and if a women's house became a reality, they would be powerful role models for the Ballard girls. Having a women's house would let Youth Wise put an oar on both sides of the boat, and allow them to build the momentum necessary to reach every kid at Ballard High School.

Please pray for the kids at Ballard High School, for the new ministry, Youth Wise, and that God would send faithful laborers into this field ripe for the harvest.

Editor's Note: As part of the research done for this article, Mars Hill's Proxy youth ministry got in touch with Youth Wise and the result has been a win-win working relationship for both groups. As Proxy intern Dustin Nickerson recounts, "Proxy and Youth Wise are going to be working together to serve Ballard High School students in the most effective way possible. Youth Wise offers some things that Proxy can't, and vice versa. Youth Wise has an emphasis on plugging students into local bodies, which is a great opportunity for us. Both Greg and Kevin volunteer coach and tutor at BHS, which allows them to be on campus and cultivate relationships in a way that Proxy cannot. We actively tried to get a Bible study on campus in the fall, but the district required us to jump through a lot of hoops. Now God has provided Youth Wise as a way to reach the school He has called us to minister to. It's an exciting opportunity, and I'm excited to see what the Lord has in store with this relationship." ▼

Gay or Geisha?

Love, Hollywood Style

By Pastor James Harleman

I saw it, and I'm not gay. I know that a contingent of the Christian community seems to think that by the mere watching of a film like "Brokeback Mountain", with its "communist propaganda" and "homosexual agenda," a straight guy might develop a queer eye, but nothing could be further from the truth. Actually, when I dutifully went to see "Brokeback Mountain" two weeks ago, it was sold out. I could have chalked up the red flag to divine providence, but I had also tried to see "The Ringer" and met the same rebuff. Since I didn't want to believe God was overruling my desire to see the comedic star of "Jackass" fix the special Olympics, I couldn't justify skipping Ang Lee's controversial film that may well win Best Picture or Best Actor this year at the Academy Awards.

The night "Brokeback" sold out, I saw the Golden Globe-winning "Memoirs of a Geisha" and hiked the "Mountain" later that week. Seeing both films back to back, I found myself with a unique perspective regarding both films that may surprise and challenge some people.

"Brokeback Mountain" focuses on Ennis Del Mar, played by Heath Ledger, a tight-lipped redneck ranch hand in the 1960s looking for any work he can get. He and a stranger named Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal) spend an isolated summer on the cold mountain the film is named for, and we discover almost immediately that Jack and his father have apparently never gotten along, and Ennis' mother and father passed away when he was young (he was raised by a brother,

but now feels abandoned). Both men have glaring problems with fatherly and male affection. Moreover, for Ennis summer's end will bring marriage and the responsibilities of husband and future father, which—considering his upbringing—weigh uncomfortably on the young man.

Drinking themselves into a stupor, the two frustrated men eventually engage in a homosexual tryst (I guess the alternative was the sheep). Jack seems more comfortable with this, whereas Ennis is initially resistant. The next morning, it's just both of them and the lonely mountain... with seemingly no consequences. The relationship continues as they play like boys during the day, shirk their responsibilities, and play lovers at night. The mountain becomes an oasis from the reality below, with responsibilities and expectations ahead. Called down a month early, Ennis is robbed of any chance for conversation or closure.

Both men marry and have children, but Ennis is a self-centered bigot and a drunk who can't make ends meet; providing for his family irritates him, and he pines for the carefree time he spent with Jack and the intimacy that came more easily. When Twist visits, they abscond to the mountains for "fishing trips," seeking to recreate their oasis. Over the years, Jack tries to talk Ennis into leaving wife and children, but Ennis wrestles with varied fears and guilt around what he is doing, what that "makes" him, what others will think or do to them, and more.

Eventually, Ennis' decisions cost him his marriage and leave his life in ruin, because he ultimately can't commit to anything: his job, his wife, his kids, or his homosexual lover on the side. The film ends in a rather pitiful tragedy with very little hope for Ennis, living in a trailer with his regret and only a small hope that perhaps he'll finally invest in the life of his adult daughter.

What's unique about this film is that it does little to assign blame; director Ang Lee has done a masterful job displaying damaged people in a flawed culture who live confused lives. A viewer may assign the blame to culture, Jack, Ennis, adultery, genetics, upbringing, or any number of combined factors. They'll likely lay the blame according to whatever worldview they walk in with. Some might paint the abusive, drunken Ennis Del Mar as a victim of a culture that would never accept him. Others might point out that this explanation doesn't justify lies, deceit, adultery, marriage to a woman he won't love, and horrible parenting. Almost all of Lee's films (Sense and Sensibility, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, even The Hulk) carry an undercurrent regarding life — that it is something laborious that must be endured with great patience, if it can be endured at all. The filmmaker vividly captures King Solomon's Ecclesiastical lament, that life is burdensome and wearying and ultimately meaningless. This film depicts a particularly ponderous ponderosa, and Ennis Del Mar is crushed under its weight.



Meanwhile, on the other side of the world and several decades earlier, two girls are sold into slavery. One is sent directly to the brothel, but young Chiyo is put up in a house and destined to become "Geisha." What is a Geisha, you ask? Rob Marshall's film unpacks this slowly. The director of "Chicago" gives us a stylized version of Geisha life that seems one part Japanese Cinderella, one part "Showgirls," and one part salvation... at least, until you step away from the PG-13 narrative and think about it.

Blue-eyed Chiyo is a servant in the Geisha house and perceived as a threat by the house favorite, Hatsumomo, though the young girl has no desire to be a geisha and simply wants to find her sister and escape. This is not to be, and she is beaten and oppressed in a world with no choices or freedom. When a wealthy Chairman surrounded by geisha shows the little girl one of the few acts of kindness she's ever received, she decides to become geisha so that she might have the affection of a gentleman like him. An oddly reserved cat-fight begins as Chiyo struggles to become geisha, which in this film is the Japanese equivalent of a highly-paid escort/entertainer. She receives help from another house geisha, Mameha (Michelle Yeoh), whose goal seems to be using the young girl to strategically take down the mean-spirited Hatsumomo and put Chiyo in place to inherit the house.

Chiyo (Zhang Ziyi) rises to become the most famous Geisha in Japan and takes the new name Sayuri. She even enters the world of her beloved Chairman (Ken Watanabe), but finds herself reluctantly on the arm of the friend to whom he owes his life. The advent of World War II disrupts her plan further; there is no time or place for geisha in tumultuous times and she works in a small village, separated from the man she desires to love. After the war, it seems everything she does backfires, but in the end she realizes that the



Chairman has been, in a strange fatherly/romantic fashion, guiding events since they first met to raise her up, give her a better life, make her his own, and take care of her. It's almost a beautiful portrait of our larger narrative—God's love for us, freeing us from bondage into which we're born—until you step out of the confines of the film and look at the culture and role of the geisha. Throw all the kimono and silk you want over it, geisha is still a synonym for "prostitute."

"We sell our skills, not our bodies," Mameha tells Sayuri, "the very word 'geisha' means 'artist'"... (except, of course, when Sayuri's virginity is auctioned off to the highest bidder, a geisha tradition which plays a pivotal role in the film). Artistry, more money, and less frequency doesn't mean you're not a whore. Even the happy ending, pairing her with a man who will take care of her exclusively, cannot hide the fact that the man in question is married with children. The movie takes great pains to paint a portrait and keep us from looking past the edges of the canvas, but it ultimately fails. Director Rob Marshall's film is beautiful and endearing, but ultimately fails to have narrative sustenance.

Less endearing but more honest, "Brokeback Mountain" is the film Christians should engage and dialogue about with others just as they would any film that deals with adultery, be it hetero- or homosexual. Sin is sin. This film ultimately portrays the consequences of adultery and an over-idealized tryst. We don't know what might have happened if Ennis Del Mar had been able to live Jack's dream of an openly homosexual life. Pinning his demeanor and behavior on

that restriction is a big assumption; he might have been an equally ornery, abusive drunk with his male lover once reality set in. The problem with both men—also established early in the film—is not merely that they lacked strong or admirable father figures, but that they don't know anything about God their Father, or Jesus, and subsequently know nothing about love, purpose, direction, or being men, seeking to avoid the rigors and roles of a man and perpetually making life harder for each other, stewing in a poisonous combination of pride, bitterness, lust and self-loathing. Despite claims that this film glamorizes or validates homosexuality, "Brokeback Mountain" does not give us well-balanced gay men oppressed by a conservative culture; it depicts damaged and conflicted men trying to mitigate the pain and void in their lives, with unsatisfactory results. ▼



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PART 1 WILL CONSIST OF THE HISTORY, BELIEFS, AND THE SIMILARITIES AND DISSIMILARITIES WITH CHRISTIANITY.

MARCH 22. UNDERSTANDING ISLAM PART 2

PART 2 WILL INCLUDE SHARING CHRIST WITH A MUSLIM. WE WILL DISCUSS APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM, AS WELL AS "PROLETARIAN" IN A POLITICALLY CORRECT WORLD.

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM INTRODUCTION

AS FRANCIS OF ASSISI REMINDS US IN HIS NOW FAMOUS PRAYER, "THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK...TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND." MY PRAYER, AS WE DIVE INTO THE SUBJECT OF ISLAM IS THAT WE'D BE COMING HERE AS LEARNERS, AND HAVE CHECKED OUR PRECONCEPTIONS AT THE DOOR, AND ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND THIS WORLD RELIGION THAT BOASTS OVER ONE BILLION ADHERENTS FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD, AND IS CURRENTLY GROWING WORLDWIDE AT A RATE THAT WILL DWARF CHRISTIANITY BY 2025. I PRAY THAT AS BELIEVERS, WE CAN HUMBLE OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, AND OUR DETRACTORS, LISTEN TO WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY, UNDERSTAND THEIR POSITIONS, AND THEN "GENTLY" CORRECT AND TRAIN THEM TOWARD THE GLORY OF THE LORD.

capstone institute

M

Games & Theology



By Leon S. Kennedy

As a kid who spent a lot of time in coin-op arcades, one of my most vivid memories involves playing *Dragon's Lair*. Remember that game (if you can even call it a game)? It basically involved watching a cartoon about a goofy guy named Dirk the Daring as he tried to save a princess, and pressing a button or direction on the joystick at the proper time to advance Dirk to the next scene. *Dragon's Lair* wasn't a very good game, but for some reason, I tithed many a quarter to it. I remember playing it one day with a buddy, and asking him, "What if some day, when we're like eighty years old or something, all games looked like movies, but you could actually control them like normal video games? How crazy would that be!?" We pondered this for a while, but came to the conclusion that it would probably never happen in our lifetime.

We were wrong. Video games have become today what we could only dream: interactive movies. And with blockbuster games like *Halo 2*, *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*, and *World of Warcraft* bringing in sums of money much larger than any movie has ever grossed, Hollywood is taking notice of the phenomenon. Movie directors such as Peter Jackson (*Lord of the Rings* trilogy), the Wachowski Brothers (*The Matrix* trilogy), and Steven Spielberg have dabbled in the video game medium. More recently, Spielberg even signed a deal with video game publisher Electronic Arts to oversee development of three original titles over the next few years. The line between film and games is quickly becoming blurred as actors, directors, and screenwriters are flocking to the game industry, hoping to be part of the next big movement in entertainment.

How do we, as Christians, respond to this rapidly growing form of entertainment? Pastor James Harleman spoke on a related topic a few weeks back when he preached his sermon on missional engagement of culture. James used the Apostle Paul's visit to the Areopagus in Acts 17 as an example. Rather than denouncing the idols and commanding the people to repent of their evil ways, Paul spoke to the Athenians in a way they could understand, finding the truth about Jesus and the Gospel within their poetry and philosophies. Today, missional opportunities can be found in film, music, books, theater, websites—after all, God is sovereign over all things, and who are we to say what He can and cannot use to His end?

Film & Theology does a great job of finding the truth about Jesus within our culture's movies. Video games, though a much newer form of entertainment than movies, are equally ripe with theological ideas. In fact, I would argue even more so. Video games are not only much longer than movies, giving creators more time to flush out a story; they're also interactive, allowing you to participate rather than simply watch. Movies tell objective stories in objective settings, while games let you assume the role of the protagonist and experience the world in which they live. You have control over their decisions, and you must face the consequences of their actions within the established structures of the game. Some games (such as *Jade Empire* or *Fable*) go as far as to have built-in moral structures, in which how you behave determines whether your character becomes a good person or an evil person. Even in a more standard, linear video game, you step into the persona of a character and experience a story's worldview through the eyes of that character.

Everything Bad is Good for You

A book review

by Matthew Scott Winslow

Video games are bad for you, television rots your brain, and the Internet is the biggest waste of time, ever. Everyone knows this. It goes without saying. Or does it? Like any truism that we use to define our lives, such a belief is often contrary to reality. In his latest book, *Everything Bad is Good For You*, Steven Johnson sets out to show, as the subtitle expresses it, "How Today's Popular Culture is Actually Making Us Smarter."

It's quite a bold claim to make since the received wisdom says that these technologies are good only for turning one's mind to mush, or maybe for teaching children how to be violent or have short attention spans. But little has been done to look at the positive aspects (if there are any) of these technologies. And looking at the positive is exactly what Johnson does.

Johnson begins by noticing that IQ scores have been on the increase for most of the 20th century. What, he asks, is the cause for a wholesale increase in the cognitive abilities of the population? Having looked over a large body of neuroscience and psychology papers, Johnson discovered that the very things that improve cognitive intelligence were the very things that video games and modern television were providing, namely the ability to manage complex data structures in what Johnson calls 'telescoping' (the ability to focus on details while keeping the big picture in mind), as well as narrative sophistication that can be found in such innovative new shows as *The Sopranos*, *West Wing*, and *24*.

The premise that these technologies have positive and socially desirable benefits is indeed a radical one, and one need go no further than Johnson's title to see that he recognizes this. Johnson also affirms this with the name he gives this effect: the *Sleeper Curve*, named after a humorous moment in Woody Allen's movie *The Sleepers* where people from the future wonder how modern man couldn't see the benefits of fudge sundaes. Johnson's *Sleeper Curve* traces the exact same effect: things once considered purely decadent and a waste of time actually help in unexpected ways.

Johnson's thesis needs to be taken with a grain of salt, however, and he even provides us with that salt: a diet exclusively of video games, TV, and the Internet will not lead to budding geniuses, just as a diet of nothing but the classics of Western literature will not lead one to be the next Einstein. There should be moderation and balance in the way we structure our lives, but that balance cannot be achieved if we exclude, a priori, technologies that reinforce

and support cognitive intelligences.

One other problem, though, Johnson doesn't address, and that is that the Flynn effect (the increase of IQ scores over time) began long before the technologies under discussion were invented. This creates a larger problem in that a causal effect cannot be established when the result happens before the cause even exists.

One final point needs to be made about Johnson's argument: he purposefully does not discuss the excessive violence or sexuality that many find in these emerging technologies. His argument for the Sleeper Curve has nothing to do with the moralities that are being put forth in some instances in these new technologies and so he does not address those issues. He does admit that these are issues that need to be addressed but that discourse so far has been inadequate. It is his hope that the idea of the Sleeper Curve will help bring the benefits of these technologies to the table for discussion so that reasoned and balanced discussions can occur.

It is the role of us, as Christians, to take up this conversation. Too often the discussion has been framed by the Moral Majority's simple and simplistic idea that viewing violence is just plain wrong... period. But such an attitude neglects the missional nature of the Christian's responsibility to be in the world and engaging the world around us. Johnson has brought up many good points about how the "bad" technologies around us may not be as awful as first thought. We need now to take the conversation that Johnson has begun in the cognitive sciences, and continue it into the theological realm. What about these technologies is good? What is bad? Johnson uses those very terms in his title, but without the moral foundation of belief in the God of the Bible and His Son Jesus Christ, they come up empty and meaningless. How much more meaning we can infuse into "good" and "evil" and perhaps come up with a much better way to engage the culture than has been done by Christians in the past.

So, go home, play your Xbox, watch some TV, surf the Internet... and bring glory to God! ❖

Don't get me wrong here—like a lot of movies, many of today's games are mindless action flicks. But some are pushing entertainment into new places, immersing players in deep worlds and telling wonderfully intricate stories. One such game is *Shadow of the Colossus* for PlayStation 2. In *Shadow of the Colossus*, you assume the role of a young man who has recently lost the woman he loves, and has traveled to the far end of an ancient world searching for a way to bring her back to life. But the only way she can possibly be revived, he learns, is through the power of an unknown god. The god will only grant his wish if he enters into a forbidden land to unearth and destroy 16 giant creatures.

As you play through *Shadow of the Colossus*'s mysterious story, you'll quickly notice that it is morally ambiguous. You're never quite sure what is right and what is wrong, and there's no one to tell you the difference—you are completely alone in the world. Even the colossi you face are not particularly evil. You are the one engaging them in battle—they are really only protecting themselves. Each time you defeat one, there is an overwhelming sense of sadness as the giant creature comes tumbling down, and all you can do is move on to the next one. Nobody really wins. It is much like the life described in Ecclesiastes 1: meaningless, like vapor. What does a man gain from all his labor? There's no guarantee that the girl will come back to life even if you do succeed in destroying all 16 colossi.

From beginning to end, the game paints a beautiful yet tragic picture of a life without hope. As Christians, our hope is in Jesus Christ, whom we worship. In *Shadow of the Colossus*, the man's entire quest is in service of a god he knows nothing about. The man knows that it can only end in his own death, but doesn't care. He believes in something and worships it, but in the end, he is lost, without hope. For many, our world is exactly the same. We all worship, but outside of Christ, there simply is no life. When Paul addressed the Athenians at the Areopagus, he spoke specifically of their altar "to an unknown god" and said, "Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you." He then, of course, goes on to preach the good news of Jesus Christ.

How can we, like Paul, engage our culture? The answer

is simple: pay attention to it. Don't worship it, but don't ignore it either. Videogames are not the only pastime our culture partakes in, but they are becoming more and more important. I'm not saying everyone has to play videogames—for some, they are an addiction or deterrent to God. But if you are a gamer, play games like I Corinthians 10:31 commands: to the glory of God. ❖



Biblical Marriage

Saturday February 18th 12pm - 5pm at Mars Hill: Ballard

This incredible event will not only be looking at the roles of a husbands and wives, working through how past sin enters into and impacts married life, romance and sexuality but will feature a session with special guest Shaunti Feldhahn, national speaker and renowned author of "For Women Only: Understanding the Inner Lives of Men". Don't miss out on this singular opportunity to gain wisdom and growth, as well as inviting couples you know who may benefit from this invaluable experience. Married couples and those engaged to be married are urged to attend; the seminar is open to all.



Cost is \$20 per person.

Women's • TRAINING DAY •

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:
"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."
Genesis 15:1

March 18, 2006
9:30am-6:00pm at Mars Hill
registration: 8:30am

\$15
financial assistance
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life@marshillchurch.org

Mars Hill: Shoreline



Photos by Rick James



North Enders get to be a part of realizing a local vision of ministry to their community.

As Mars Hill's vision for urban evangelism rings out into Seattle's surrounding areas it has drawn members devoted to the advance of God's Kingdom from as far north as Bellingham and as far south as Tacoma.

Now in this first chapter of Mars Hill's satellite expansion experiment, North Enders are getting to be a part of realizing a local vision of ministry to their immediate neighbors. Since the soft launch on January 15, the excitement has been palpable in the beautifully remodeled Schirmer auditorium that is used for Sunday services. As many of you already know the turnout has been tremendous. There were 330 seats set up for the Launch and the service ended up seeing an attendance of 384 adults and 74 children!

To accomodate these wonderful attendance numbers, Mars Hill: Shoreline will be going to two services beginning Feb. 19 in order to provide room to grow as Mars Hill reaches out to the surrounding community.

There are no paid staff running the Sunday operations of Mars Hill: Shoreline, so the need for volunteers is paramount. Mars Hill: Shoreline presents a wonderful opportunity for North Enders who are looking to get involved in serving and to mature into roles of leadership.

The Lord has blessed us with an exhilarating start and has brought many gifted people together to be a part of our Sunday service. As a community, Mars Hill is excited to be a part of His plan for Shoreline and to watch Him bring in the many people He has here in the North End! 🙌

The Sound of Surrender

A Hill Becomes Home

By Beth Witham

Have you ever seen that Christmas-time movie, *Family Man* with Nicolas Cage? In it, Cage's filthy-rich, corner-office-on-Wall Street character is forced into a "glimpse" of what it would be like to live a life rich with love, family, and friendship, rather than one bursting at the seams with dollar signs and social status. At first, the character, Jack Campbell, abhors this "glimpse" in which he is stuck for most of the movie. Jack can't imagine anything more dreadful than trading in his designer suits for ones made of corduroy, making a living selling tires – retail – and waking up to the sound of his young daughter squeaking through the house, determined to master her violin.

It's this last scene with the violin that catches my attention. It's here that Jack begins to hear the violin as music, sweet music – and it opens his eyes to see his entire life that way. I can easily imagine a similar scene in Mars Hill worship leader Brian Eichelberger's home while growing up on Mercer Island with his mother, father, and younger sister. Very unusual for adolescent boys, Brian would wake up earlier than he had to – way earlier in fact – determined to practice his violin. Each morning through much of junior high, Brian remembers devoting two hours to practice before even starting his school day. His parents were supportive of his passion, but Brian didn't pursue it for them. He had an unquenchable desire for music, one that has both evolved and stuck with him to this day.

After years of lessons in classical violin, performing in the Seattle Youth Symphony and his high school orchestra, Brian pursued another channel for his musical gifts – church. He began leading worship for his church's high school group

in eleventh grade, something he remembers as "one of my first leadership experiences."

"I really enjoyed the fact that music could be a worshipful expression," explained Brian, who grew up attending Westminster Chapel in Bellevue.

Brian's musical talent and capacity as a worship leader were flourishing. Before graduating high school, Brian began traveling around the northwest with other musicians, as a visiting worship leader for churches. As he traveled, people took note of his name and invited him back. Brian's talent even took him overseas as a guest worship leader in countries as far away as Germany and Ecuador.

In the midst of his life as a traveling musician, Brian stumbled upon Mars Hill. He had just moved to Ballard after spending a year at Azusa Pacific University in California, and decided to check out the church after reading about it in the news and discovering it was close to his new home. Brian remembers his first impression of the place that would eventually become his church home.

"I liked that they were doing cool aesthetic things, but I was really blown away by the missional mindset that they really made a priority."

His interest sparked, Brian contacted Mars Hill Pastor Tim Smith to find out if there were any ways he could help out with the worship team when he was in town. Tim and

Brian began meeting once a month for coffee, during which Brian recalls Tim "really kicked my butt about why I wanted to be traveling and not committed to one church body."

"It made me think a lot," Brian remembered.

It was through those meetings with Pastor Tim that Brian realized – as exciting as living out of a suitcase can be – his life was lacking things vital to a thriving Christian life: a "home base," accountability, a community to serve and be a part of.

His definition of worship also transformed throughout this process, as he came to understand it as "our response to God's initiation."

Through heart-to-heart talks with Pastor Tim and some soul-searching of his own, Brian decided to pitch his tent, so to speak, in the Seattle area, and commit to Mars Hill as his church.

During last summer and fall, he interned for the church, overseeing volunteers in the audio/recording department.



Photos courtesy of Brian Eichelberger

Brian has since transitioned into a more all-encompassing role in the music department. He still plays in bands for the church, and also oversees the production and release of live Mars Hill CDs, and will direct music for this year's Good Friday and Easter services.

Brian has gotten to know Mars Hill over the last couple of years, and he hopes the church has gotten to know him as well. There may still be some things about him, however, that would surprise people.

Though he denies rumors by co-worship leader Joe Day that he "can knit a mean sweater," 22-year-old Brian admits there are some things people may not necessarily know about him.

Like he can climb a mean mountain – 15,560 feet to be exact, a feat he conquered during a trip to Ecuador last winter.

(continued: SEE 'Brian Eichelberger' page 10)

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.' Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday." – Psalm 91: 1-6



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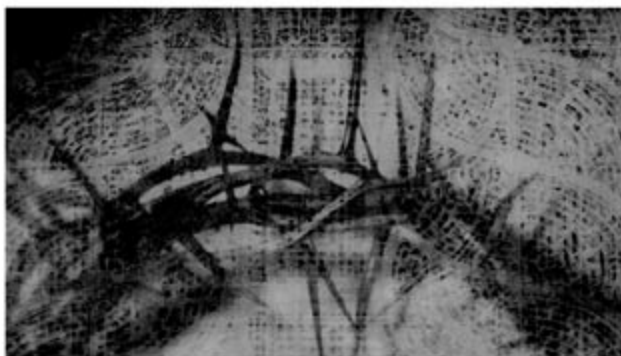
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MARS HILL ART GALLERY

GLENN MITSUI & DAVE PAULS

JANUARY 14-APRIL 1

RECEPTION :: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11
6:00-8:00 PM, MARS HILL CHURCH

Brian Eichelberger

(continued from page 9)

"It was an all-day kind of thing," he said.

The mountain man also admits that he's a closet rap fan.

"Sometimes I bust out the old school hip hop – Jay Z, Mase, Notorious BIG... everybody's got to listen to Kanye West once in a while," he said.

Mostly though, Brian sets the gage for his musical taste somewhere between folk and pop with some blue grass (think Nickel Creek) and indie rock (think Death Cab For Cutie) mixed in for good measure.

With the fusion of bands crossing just about all musical genres at Mars Hill – Brian fits right in.

Most recently, Brian took on the role as co-worship leader for the new Mars Hill campus in Shoreline, which launched its services Jan. 22.

Joe Day is interning alongside Brian, and will also be leading worship in Shoreline.

Though Joe has known Brian less than a year, he admires Brian's commitment to the local church and his choice to give up extraordinary opportunities to stay true to that commitment.

"I have observed him initiate the development of a less busy schedule in order to serve at his local church, Mars Hill," said Joe. "This is quite unusual, especially since globe-trotting worship leaders are in high demand. What I see here is a man who understands that corporate worship is essentially tied to church, that he has made sure that he is consistent in word and deed."

Timothy Meaney, owner of the local music studio where Brian works as a producer and engineer, also emphasizes Brian's steadfast character.

"Brian's strength is really thinking through his decisions. He has a gift in really making sure it is the right thing before he moves forward. Both on a spiritual and musical level, he doesn't make a decision unless it's spiritually and musically right."

Timothy has watched Brian evolve as an artist for more than half his life and has traveled with him for hundreds of concerts.

"Brian was about 10 when I first saw him play the violin at my church during the service. I knew right away that he was very special and talented, but it was not right to have a 10-year-old on the payroll," he said.

Timothy also values Brian for his versatility, as someone who can be counted on to triumph over any task, big or small.

"Brian can be the guy in charge, or an amazing utility man. I can give him a project and I don't have to tell him anything. He knows what I like...we agree on so many styles. He can just do the engineering, he can produce or he can do it from the beginning to the end on any project."

After pondering Brian's laundry list of accomplishments, which seems to go on forever, he is a man who seems to have the world at his fingertips. Yet here in Seattle, he has found his outlet to the world in which God has called him to serve.

Brian still packs a suitcase from time to time, but like Jack Campbell, he's been given his glimpse, and realizes all he needs is right here at home. ▽

Vintage Saints

Valentine

Written by Pastor Mark Driscoll

Researched by Deacon Crystal Griffin

Valentine's Day is often loved by women and loathed by men who feel compelled to drop their hard-earned cash on flowers, jewelry, candy, and sappy cards. Perhaps comic Jay Leno expressed the male Valentine's Day dilemma best in one of his monologues, saying, "Today is Valentine's Day – or, as men like to call it, Extortion Day!" Conversely, the hopelessly romantic at heart enjoy the opportunity that Valentine's Day affords for thoughtful romance and unbridled passion.

Whether you love or hate Valentine's Day, the fact is that it has evolved into an enormous holiday. The question remains, however, who is Valentine and how did he come to be associated with everything from the color red to some secret known only by a woman named Victoria?

While the details of his life are sketchy at best, Valentine was allegedly a Christian who was canonized by the Catholic Church as a saint. His name was common and is derived from the Latin word valens, meaning strong and powerful.

One legend claims that Emperor Claudius II (or Claudius the Goth) outlawed marriage because he decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families and he wanted to bolster the strength of his military. But a priest named Valentine secretly performed marriages, thereby defending romance and love.

Another legend claims that just prior to being beheaded, Valentine prayed over the daughter of his jailer which led to the curing of her blindness and the conversion of her entire family, including her father, though he still put Valentine to death toward the end of the third century. Further contributing to all of the confusion is the fact that there may have been as many as three Christians named Valentine who were all martyred, making it seemingly impossible to know which stories are true and to which men they apply.

Although the celebration of the life of Saint Valentine

was not initially met with much fanfare, he eventually grew in popularity for a very practical reason. Around AD 498, Pope Gelasius chose February 14 as the day for commemorating Valentine's life because that was the day he reportedly died as a Christian martyr around AD 270. That day proved to be serendipitous as the medieval legend emerged that birds selected their mates on February 14, thereby associating the day with romance and love. Also, Saint Valentine's Day fell the day before the Hefner-esque Roman fertility feast of Lupercalia on February 15. Lupercalia was a drunken, naked crazy-fest not unlike modern-day Mardi Gras celebrations and NBA locker rooms. Lupercalia was dedicated to the god of partying, Faunus, marked by the usual frat-boy nonsense of naked white guys running through the streets while crowds drank heavily, danced, and young singles enjoyed "hooking up."

Once Saint Valentine became connected with the debauchery of Lupercalia, his Christian influence on the holiday quickly waned as the two holidays essentially merged and the spirit of Lupercalia remained but was renamed Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day quickly grew in popularity. Its association with the color red may have been taken from the fact that the color red was chosen to commemorate the death of Valentine who died the bloody death of a martyr. Also, the association with the chubby, winged pseudo-angel Cupid, who is the mythical son of the Roman goddess of love, Venus, is a Lupercalia leftover from pagan mythology.

Perhaps the most common present-day tradition associated with Valentine's Day is the giving of valentine cards. No one is certain how this tradition began. One legend reports that Valentine actually sent the first valentine. The story goes that while in prison awaiting his execution he wrote a love letter to a woman and signed it, "From your Valentine." Apparently the expression stuck and remains perennially popular.

By the Middle Ages, Valentine's Day was widely celebrated. The first Valentine's Day card was reportedly a poem sent by Charles, the duke of Orleans, to his wife in 1415 while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. That card remains on display at the British Museum in London to this day. By 1450, to be someone's valentine was synonymous with being their sweetheart. By 1533, a valentine was synonymous with a piece of paper folded as a romantic card. By 1610, valentine gifts were also commonly given to sweethearts. By the mid-1700s, Valentine's Day grew in popularity throughout Great Britain and around that time Americans also began exchanging handmade valentine cards. And, by the 1840s, the commercial greeting card companies began mass-producing valentines marked by such girly adornment as lace and ribbon. Today, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year, following Christmas.

Sadly, the holiday in his name completely ignores our Christian brother Valentine. As a pastor, he likely would have been mortified at much of what is done in the name of love to commemorate the day his head was chopped off because of his love for Jesus. ❖

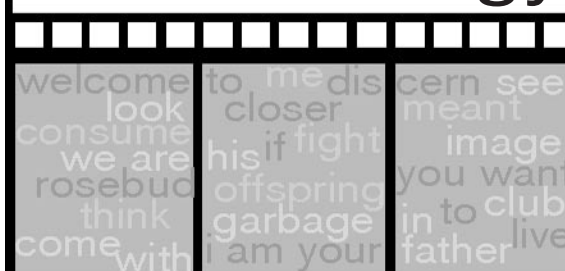


The Impact of your Father in your life and those around you

No matter what stage you are in life - from single life to silver anniversary - the legacy of your father (absent or present) impacts how you live your life. Pastor Lief Moi will be speaking on how this plays itself out, and how God as our Father fills all of our needs. Open to single, dating, courting, engaged and married folks.

Covenant Event | Friday February 24th 7pm - 9pm

film&theology



All stories possess shared themes, and many films are saying a lot more than you realize. Join us as we engage contemporary culture and view this art form through a discerning lens.



"Frisbee"

(with director David Di Sabatino)
Friday February 10, 6:45pm



MARS HILL CHURCH

Mars Hill Community Groups

All community groups take place in the homes of church members who are committed to sharing their lives with those who participate in their group. The purpose of community groups is to provide a warm environment with opportunities for you to connect and grow authentic relationships and lasting biblical friendships with your brothers and sisters in Christ, experience authentic biblical community with God and others, find nourishment and accountability as you mature in your own walk with Christ and establish a support center from which you will go out into your various social networks carrying the hope of the Gospel.

Prayerfully consider joining a community group. A comprehensive list of groups with contact information is available online, in the connect center, and below. If you're interested in hosting or leading a Community Group, email leadership@marshallchurch.org.

Ballard Monday 7pm

Led By: Mark Blair, Craig Baker
Contact: Kirsten Blair
Phone: 206-783-1970
Email: kirstentheblair@yahoo.com

Ballard Monday 7pm

Led By: Jon Bugler
Contact: Levi Mulkey
Phone: 206-229-5234
Email: lmulkey@u.washington.edu

Des Moines Monday 7pm

Led By: Rob Thomas
Contact: Michelle Thomas
Phone: 206-592-0472
Email: bluedane@comcast.net

Greenwood Monday 7:45pm

Led By: Caleb Davis
Contact: Caleb Davis
Phone: 206-297-6164
Email: davisc@spu.edu

Kent Monday 9:30am

Led By: Autumn Brown
Contact: Autumn Brown
Phone: 253-520-0086
Email: planb4@gmail.com
For Women Only

Magnolia Monday 7pm

Led By: Bill Swayne
Contact: Candace Swayne
Phone: 206-726-1633
Email: candace_s@wmsfp.com

Mill Creek Monday 7pm

Led By: Mike Seggelink
Contact: Mike and Thalia Seggelink
Phone: 425-338-9692
Email: tmseggelink@hotmail.com

Redmond Monday 7pm

Led By: Bo Rohlfen
Contact: Bo Rohlfen
Email: rohlfen@gmail.com

University District Monday 6:30pm

Led By: Taylor Aldridge
Contact: Taylor and Cricket Aldridge
Phone: 206-525-3455
Email: design@brainstormmedia.com

Wallingford Monday 7pm

Led By: Dusty Wisniew
Contact: Dusty and Corinne Wisniew
Phone: 206-351-2261
Email: dustywisniew@hotmail.com

Ballard Tuesday

Led By: Jordan McDevitt
Contact: Jordan McDevitt
Phone: 206-291-4130
Email: high
Lakes@hotmail.com

Ballard Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Jeremy Foster
Contact: Jeremy Foster
Phone: 206-250-7637
Email: jeremyrfoster@hotmail.com
For Men Only

Ballard Tuesday 7:30pm

Led By: David Pauls
Contact: David and Patty Pauls
Phone: 206-235-4215
Email: patty@starfishcreative.com

Ballard Tuesday 6:30pm

Led By: Fawn Hall
Contact: Fawn Hall
Phone: 206-706-8379
Email: gasket_girl@hotmail.com
For Women Only

Bothell Tuesday 6:30pm

Led By: Sam Barrett
Contact: Sam and Beth Barrett
Phone: 425-398-9490
Email: samandbethbarrett@yahoo.com

Central District Tuesday

Led By: Wes Oaks
Contact: Wes and Jamie Oaks
Phone: 206-329-1176
Email: wesleyandjamie@hotmail.com

Crown Hill Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Adelle George, Mike O'Dea
Contact: Mike O'Dea
Phone: 206-696-1281
Email: odea.mike@googlemail.com

Edmonds Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Justin Schaeffer
Contact: Justin Schaeffer
Phone: 425-776-4374
Email: schaeffers1@verizon.net

Edmonds Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Wilson Raj
Contact: Paul Comte
Phone: 206-963-7881
Email: pfcomte@earthlink.net
For Men Only

Everett Tuesday

Led By: Rob Kuchcinski
Contact: Tim and Anne Quiring
Phone: 425-379-2966
Email: tquring@earthlink.net

Federal Way Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Kurt Stender
Contact: Michelle Stender
Phone: 253-874-2627
Email: michelle@stenderlaw.com

Fremont Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Cory James Clouse
Contact: Cory James Clouse
Phone: 425-280-7820
Email: coryjames32@gmail.com

Greenlake Tuesday

Led By: Ben Anderson
Contact: Scott Richardson
Phone: 206-227-2943
Email: GreenLakecommunitygroup@earthlink.net

Greenlake Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Ryan Plasch
Contact: Ryan Plasch
Phone: 206-601-9505
Email: rdplasch@yahoo.com

Greenwood Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Patrick Dahlstrom
Contact: Patrick Dahlstrom
Phone: 206-550-0007
Email: pat_rickjd@yahoo.com

Greenwood Tuesday 7:30pm

Led By: Drew Maxwell
Contact: Drew and Lisa Maxwell
Phone: 206-650-7085
Email: lisa.maxwell@mac.com

Greenwood Tuesday 6:30pm

Led By: Nick Mocer
Contact: Nick and Beth Mocer
Phone: 206-219-9092
Email: mocer@gmail.com

Kirkland Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Tim Saint
Contact: Laurie Saint
Phone: 206-941-8359
Email: tim@saintfamily.com

Kirkland Tuesday 7:30pm

Led By: Colin Jones
Contact: Colin Jones
Phone: 425-823-7923
Email: colin@maverickinvestments.net

Kirkland Tuesday 7:30pm

Led By: Tim Zion
Contact: Tim and Mariah Zion
Phone: 206-427-7869
Email: timzion@gmail.com

Lake City Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Hunter Hadaway
Contact: Hunter and Molly Hadaway
Phone: 206-368-8952
Email: mollyhadaway@comcast.net

Lynnwood Tuesday 7pm

Led By: James Dahlman
Contact: Jim Dahlman
Phone: 425-744-0588
Email: jedahlman@hotmail.com

Lynnwood Tuesday 10:30am

Led By: Melissa Woolley
Contact: Kathleen Firstenberg
Email: katfirst@comcast.net
For Women Only

Magnolia Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Barney Kropf
Contact: Barney Kropf
Phone: 206-227-6412
Email: bkropf@spu.edu

Maple Leaf Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Luke Abrams
Contact: Jessica Abrams
Phone: 206-619-3824
Email: jessica@theabrams.net

North Seattle Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Dave Kraft
Contact: Dave Kraft
Phone: 206-285-1673
Email: pastordave@marshallchurch.org

North Seattle Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Mark Kaetzel
Contact: Mark and Marin Kaetzel
Phone: 206-361-2282
Email: kaetzelfamily@msn.com

Northgate Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Edward Fedele
Contact: Greg Allen
Phone: 206-300-7006
Email: greesha77@comcast.net
For Men Only

Northgate Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Michael Adeney, Shane Day
Contact: Michael Adeney
Phone: 206-524-4142
Email: mwadeney@u.washington.edu

Northgate Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Brian Landsberger
Contact: Brian Landsberger
Phone: 206-658-5819
Email: brian@landsberger.com

Queen Anne Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Ryan James
Contact: Ryan James
Phone: 360-271-1224
Email: jamesr@spu.edu

Queen Anne Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Joel Robnett
 Contact: Joel Robnett
 Phone: 206-300-0960
 Email: robnett26@hotmail.com

Queen Anne Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Jeff Elmore
 Contact: Lindsey Martin
 Phone: 206-719-4512
 Email: lindseym@remax.net

Queen Anne Tuesday 6:30pm

Led By: Tim Stiles
 Contact: Tim and Steph Stiles
 Phone: 714-728-6031
 Email: monkstile@hotmail.com

Queen Anne Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Andrew Hockman, Sally Morrison
 Contact: Andrew Hockman
 Phone: 425-830-1805
 Email: sledge@getstunned.com

Queen Anne Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Jeremy Culver
 Contact: Dan Harder
 Phone: 425-260-4379
 Email: dan_harder@hotmail.com

Queen Anne Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Dwayne Forehand
 Contact: Joy Forehand
 Phone: 206-650-7034
 Email: dforehand@marshallchurch.org

Ravenna Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Nate Nelson
 Contact: Nate Nelson
 Phone: 206-321-2216
 Email: chrisandnatenelson@hotmail.com

Sammamish Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Mark Brinton
 Contact: Sam and Jackie Jarawan
 Phone: 425-868-0341
 Email: markabrinton@hotmail.com

Shoreline Tuesday 10:30am

Led By: Trisha Wilkerson
 Contact: Trisha Wilkerson
 Email: trisha@marshallchurch.org
For Women Only

Shoreline Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Dalton Roraback
 Contact: Dalton Roraback
 Phone: 425-246-9393
 Email: Dalton_roraback@mcgraw-hill.com

Shoreline Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Andrew Myers
 Contact: Heidi Myers
 Phone: 206-992-3019
 Email: alayne@gmail.com

Shoreline Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Bill Nieman, Matthew Winslow
 Contact: Bill and Joan Nieman
 Phone: 206-417-5565
 Email: joanandbill@seanet.com

South Seattle Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Ted Dietz
 Contact: Ted and Sarah Dietz
 Phone: 206-755-0774
 Email: sarahdietz@comcast.net

University District Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Mike Murphey
 Contact: Mike Murphey
 Phone: 206-579-1705
 Email: mmurphey@microsoft.com
For Men Only

Wedgwood Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Nathan Burke
 Contact: Nathan & Rachel Burke
 Phone: 206-407-9542
 Email: hexagon76@hotmail.com

West Seattle Tuesday 7pm

Led By: Kyle Peters
 Contact: Kyle Peters
 Phone: 206-443-1685
 Email: kpeters@westinbldg.com

Ballard Wednesday 7pm

Led By: 'Jamin Latvala
 Contact: 'Jamin Latvala
 Phone: 206-789-8344
 Email: Jamin.latvala@gmail.com

Fremont Wednesday 7pm

Led By: David Sheffield
 Contact: Molly Sheffield
 Phone: 206-849-9740
 Email: mollysheffield@gmail.com

Kirkland Wednesday 6:30pm

Led By: James Mallory
 Contact: James Mallory
 Phone: 206-940-3918
 Email: jrmallory@hotmail.com

Lake City Wednesday 10am

Led By: Molly Hadaway
 Contact: Molly Hadaway
 Phone: 206-368-8952
 Email: mollyhadaway@comcast.net
For Women Only

Ravenna/Bryant Wednesday 7:30pm

Led By: John Fromel
 Contact: John and Debbie Fromel
 Phone: 206-219-5312
 Email: debbie@fromel.com

View Ridge Wednesday 7pm

Led By: Matt Hudgins
 Contact: Matt Hudgins
 Phone: 206-753-7334
 Email: matthew.hudgins@uscm.org

Ballard Thursday 7:30pm

Led By: Ted Cook
 Contact: Catherine Doner
 Phone: 206-579-9315
 Email: catherinedoner@hotmail.com

Bellevue Thursday 7pm

Led By: Cliff Low
 Contact: Cliff Low
 Phone: 425-747-0772
 Email: cliff_low@msn.com

Bothell Thursday 7pm

Led By: Tim Reber
 Contact: Mary Reber
 Phone: 425.670.0848
 Email: mary@rebecsolutions.com

Bothell Thursday 10am

Led By: Celestine Gibbs
 Contact: Celestine Gibbs
 Phone: 425-275-2723
 Email: Celygibbs@yahoo.com
For Women Only

Everett Thursday 6:30pm

Led By: Will Hofman
 Contact: Marc Fulmer
 Phone: 206-353-2328
 Email: marc.fulmer@agathosfoundation.org

Greenwood Thursday 7pm

Led By: Aaron Easter
 Contact: Leigh Georgianna
 Phone: 206-369-9517:

Kent Thursday 7pm

Led By: Shane Rehberg
 Contact: Shane Rehberg
 Email: sreberg@speakeasy.net

Kirkland Thursday 7pm

Led By: Mike Bates
 Contact: Michelle Bates
 Phone: 206-313-7757
 Email: mbrenee@gmail.com

Lake City Thursday 7:30pm

Led By: Jack McClain, Adam Christiansen
 Contact: Adam Christiansen
 Phone: 206-498-3551
 Email: adamchristiansen@hotmail.com
For Men Only

Lake Forest Park Thursday 7pm

Led By: Mark Bergin
 Contact: Mark or Acacia Bergin
 Phone: 425-670-2853
 Email: mbergin@marshallchurch.org

Lynnwood Thursday 7:15pm

Led By: Kristian Ellefsen
 Contact: Bina Ellefsen
 Phone: 206-383-2092
 Email: binahe@yahoo.com

North Bend Thursday 7pm

Led By: Tim Pearson
 Contact: Tim and Susan Pearson
 Phone: 425-888-6662
 Email: timjpearson@hotmail.com

Phinney Ridge Thursday 7pm

Led By: Chris Hall
 Contact: Kim Hall
 Phone: 206-297-7995
 Email: kimbrehall@comcast.net

Pioneer Square Thursday 6:30pm

Led By: Jeff Bettger
 Contact: Jeff Bettger
 Phone: 206-227-4397
 Email: jeff.bettger@marshallchurch.org

Queen Anne Thursday 7pm

Led By: Kabyn Begg
 Contact: Torrey Maben
 Phone: 206-285-7027
 Email: torreym@marshallchurch.org

Ravenna Thursday 7pm

Led By: Troy Dillon
 Contact: Margaret Bullitt
 Phone: 206-524-4401
 Email: mbullitt40@aol.com

Shoreline Thursday 7pm

Led By: Adam Sinnett
 Contact: Adam Sinnett
 Phone: 206-283-5150
 Email: adam@acts29network.org

South Seattle Thursday 10am

Led By: Kristina Wendorf
 Contact: Kristina Wendorf
 Phone: 206-722-01235
 Email: ktwendorf@gmail.com
For Women Only

West Seattle Thursday 7pm

Led By: David Wright
 Contact: David and Elizabeth Wright
 Phone: 206-658-0341
 Email: dewright8109@msn.com

Woodinville Thursday 7pm

Led By: Mark Lautenbach
 Contact: Mark Lautenbach
 Phone: 206-235-1486
 Email: marklautenbach@comcast.net

Kirkland Friday 10am

Led By: Angela Giboney
 Contact: Angela Giboney
 Phone: 425-869-1759
 Email: anggiboney@yahoo.com
For Women Only

Phinney Ridge Friday 10am

Led By: Kim Hall
 Contact: Kim Hall
 Phone: 206-297-7995
 Email: kimbrehall@comcast.net
For Women Only

Bainbridge Island Saturday

Led By: Bob Moore
 Contact: Bob and Dixie Moore
 Phone: 206-842-1402
 Email: rim@bainbridge.net

Shoreline Saturday 5pm

Led By: Mike Wilkerson
 Contact: Mike and Trisha Wilkerson
 Email: trisha@marshallchurch.org

Money at Mars Hill

What do we believe about our stuff?

Very simply, everything we have comes from God. Our money is a blessing and a tool we use to worship Him by giving to the church (to further the Gospel in Seattle), providing for our families and enjoying God and the grace that He gives us. You may have a lot and you may have a little, but the real question is: are you worshipping God with your stuff and do the first fruits of your checkbook reveal that?

How much should I give?

The Bible says that giving is for Christians and should be directed first to your local church. The bible does not say how much you should give but rather seeks to deal with the heart behind your giving. 2nd Corinthians 8 and 9 say that our giving should be cheerful, regular, sacrificial and generous. The Bible does not prescribe a percentage; through prayer we must seek to have a clear conscience in regards to our giving. Jesus says, *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* (Mt 6:21).

Who should give?

Christians should give faithfully to their local church. If you are not a Christian, don't give—seek to deal with the larger issue: your sin and Jesus' forgiveness of that sin. We are not concerned about the amount people give but about the number of people who are giving. God is building His kingdom through the church, and He asks that all believers share in this joyous responsibility. This mission is bigger than just a few of us and takes everyone's effort and faithfulness; no matter if you are a college student who can give only 10 bucks a month or a millionaire who can give thousands.

How Can I Give At Mars Hill?

- By check or cash placed in the offering basket during service
- By check or cash placed in the triangular kiosks located in the foyers
- By mailing a check to the church office (contact the office if you would like some self addressed envelopes).
- Online contributions can be given via debit or credit card at www.marshillchurch.org.
- Automatic Payments (ACH) can also be set up - email giving@marshillchurch.org
- Donation of stock

Sincerely,
Pastor Jamie Munson

Questions, Comments or Concerns,
e-mail: giving@marshillchurch.org

CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION/WEEKLY GIVING TRENDS

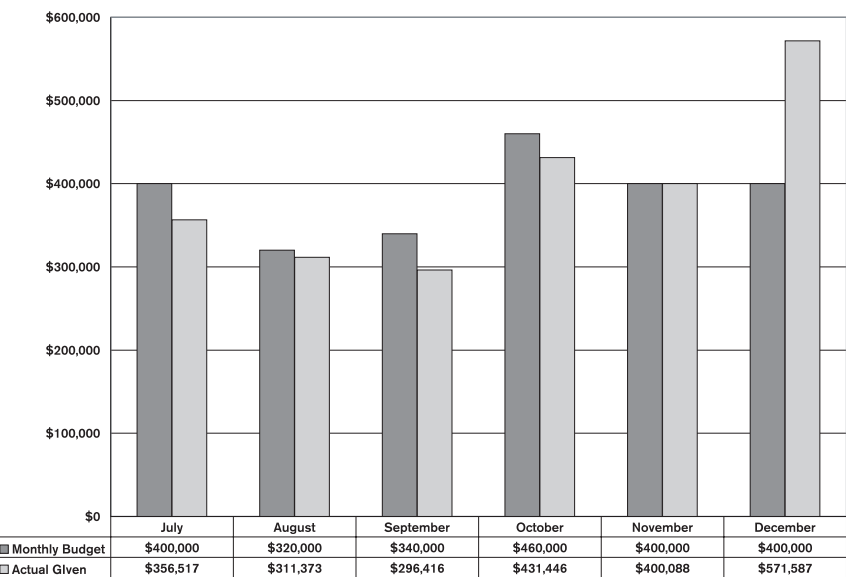
Date	Budget	Giving	# of Givers	Attendance
December 18	\$100,000	\$88,131	395	3641
December 25	\$100,000	\$94,863	335	2330
January 1	\$100,000	\$194,070	400	3346
January 8	\$100,000	\$96,931	443	4641
January 15	\$100,000	\$90,240	438	4385
January 22	\$100,000	\$100,281	476	3700

GIVING TRENDS

(July 1, 2005–January 22, 2006)

Total Given \$2,689,846
Households 2367
Average Giving \$167/month
 per household

MONTHLY BUDGET VS. ACTUAL GIVING



*These are budgeted giving numbers. They don't represent actual surplus or deficit.

EXPAND CAMPAIGN

Due to a growing church body and space limitations, we have purchased a new facility one block north at 1401 NW 50th.

We need to raise 3 million dollars in the next 16 months – for full details check out the “EXPAND” flyer or go to www.marshillchurch.org.

Needed funds \$3,000,000
Raised to date \$1,690,212
Number of
Giving Households 1,053
Total Needed
to be Raised \$1,309,788



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Shoreline Exceeds Expectations

A packed service has made the Shoreline dynamic kickoff demand two morning services! Starting February 19, services at MH: Shoreline will be 9:45am and 11:45am. Both services feature Children's Ministry.

Women's Training Day

Saturday, March 18, at Mars Hill: Ballard, 8:30am

God has called us to an abundantly satisfying relationship with Him. However, even the most committed believer often settles for a life cluttered by Christian things rather than Christ Himself. We tend to view Christianity as a moral way of life that leads to tangible, physical blessings (nice husband, obedient kids, vibrant ministry at church). But the greatest blessing of all is God Himself.

The good news of the gospel is not that we can have a life filled with nice Christian things, but that we can know Christ Himself, that we can talk with God personally, that we are granted entrance into God's presence through Christ's death on the cross. There is only ONE thing that can satisfy the deepest longings of our soul, and that is God Himself. Knowing Him is the greatest of pleasures and the purest of rewards.

Go to www.marshillchurch.org for more details and registration.

The New Mars Hill

Mars Hill: Shoreline is in full swing. In expanding to the north, we need to replicate the same Sunday volunteers helping out in Ballard: ushers, greeters, Children's Ministry helpers, prayer team, production crew, and more. Mars Hill: Shoreline holds services at 10:45am at the CRISTA Ministries campus. If you're interested in helping, email shoreline@marshillchurch.org to get involved.

Recovery Groups

If you're struggling with addiction, substance abuse, homosexuality, infertility, post-abortion trauma...Recovery Groups are designed to kindly, carefully, and firmly bring about a new way of life in Jesus. To join a Recovery Group, email recovery@marshillchurch.org.

Mmmmm...breakfast

Saturdays at 10am

Breakfast Club is a great place to meet people, fellowship, eat well, and get your hands dirty serving your church. Even if you just started coming to Mars Hill, you're welcome to join this ministry. Just drop in any Saturday at 10am to enjoy the not-so-early-morning goodness. Plus, It's way better than detention!

Celebrate New Life, Come On!

Wednesday, March 29, 7pm @ Mars Hill: Ballard

For the first time ever: As Mars Hill grows with new Christians, we are also experiencing an demographic explosion of new babies! We will be gathering as a church family to dedicate the new babies, baptize believers, and welcome new members to the fellowship of the saints. Feel free to invite your family and friends to this historic event in the life of Mars Hill. For those of you of you have who have not yet been baptized, here's your chance! To sign up, email baptism@marshillchurch.org. If you'd like to have you baby dedicated, email babies@marshillchurch.org.

Bigscreen Art

Do you have a passion for visual art? We need someone with good knowledge of art history and contemporary art, to design Mars Hill worship powerpoint slides. Must have an eye for detail, a sense of urban style, and want to help further the Mars Hill aesthetic.

Knowledge of Powerpoint and other graphics programs is a plus but training can be provided. Time commitment: a few hours per week, long term.

Email jeff@marshillchurch.org to help out.

Capstone Like Never Before

Next month, Mars Hill's Capstone Institute introduces a new lecture series. Pastor Mark Driscoll will hold a two-session presentation on Jesus, March 1st and March 8th. Pastor Mike Gunn of Harambee Church will discuss Islam on March 15th and 22nd. Go to www.marshillchurch.org to register for the Capstone Lecture Series.

Join the Mission

Every week, throughout the Puget Sound, in houses and apartments and condos, people gather together for one reason: Jesus. At Mars Hill, Community Groups are the vital conduit that connects Sunday with the rest of the week and the rest of our lives. Join a Community Group and see the face of Mars Hill. Check the latest listings in this edition of Vox Pop. Email leadership@marshillchurch.org if you can lead and/or host a group.

Married Couples Wanted

Have you been married for a few years? Is God present and working in your marriage? If so, engaged couples would love to learn from your example. Sign-up to mentor a group of couples and help them in their newly married experience. Email jen@marshillchurch.org for more information on how to get involved.

Biblical Marriage

Saturday February 18, 12pm - 5pm at Mars Hill: Ballard

This incredible event will not only be looking at the roles of a husbands and wives, working through how past sin enters into and impacts married life, romance and sexuality but will feature a session with special guest Shaunti Feldhahn, national speaker and renowned author of "For Women Only: Understanding the Inner Lives of Men". Don't miss out on this singular opportunity to gain wisdom and growth, as well as inviting couples you know who may benefit from this invaluable experience. Married couples and those engaged to be married are urged to attend; the seminar is open to all. Cost is \$20 per person.

Mars Hill goes to... Mars Hill?

That's right, pastors and members are planning a trip overseas in June to visit the cities where God used Paul to build and bolster the early church. Stops include Athens and the site of Paul's famous sermon from which we take our name, as well as Corinth - the church in our current sermon series. All-inclusive package covers flight, hotel, all scheduled site visits and meals. Interested? Email life@marshillchurch.org for more information.

Technical Web Internship

Mars Hill is hiring for the position of a technical web systems developer. This position will be tasked with taking post-design and architectural requirements form a given project and then breathing them into life. If you are passionate about Jesus, people, and technology - this is the job for you.

Requirements: five to eight month commitment, BS in Computer Science or related field, two to four years of software development experience, web dev, java, J2EE architecture or C#, scalable web services...and other stuff.

Desire to work collaboratively with other contracted engineers and agencies on a highly collaborative project. Must be genuinely excited to learn about new technologies and be open to peer criticism and instruction. Email sam@marshillchurch.org for more info and details.

www.marshillchurch.org

Visit the website to listen to past sermon series, read back issues of Vox Pop, see pictures of all the elders, check out the latest Expansion news, listen to Mars Hill music, subscribe to our various podcasts, read film reviews, scour our doctrinal statement, sign up for classes, find a community group, and search for typos.

february

for more information, visit www.marshallchurch.org

Unless otherwise noted, mid-week activities and groups, Film & Theology, and Breakfast Club meet at Mars Hill: Ballard.

weekly this season

sunday services

mars hill: ballard

8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30am, 5pm, & 7pm
(no Children's Ministry during the 7pm)

1401 NW Leary Way
Seattle, WA 98101

mars hill: shoreline

10:45am (9:45am & 11:45am beginning Feb. 19)
Schirmer Auditorium (CRISTA Ministries campus)
Greenwood Ave N and N 195th St
Seattle, WA 98133

capstone & gospel 102

wednesdays 6:45pm

(Capstone classes also offered Sun. & Thurs. Unless otherwise indicated in course description, all classes meet at Mars Hill: Ballard)

The Capstone Institute is a teaching and nurturing ministry dedicated to equipping all parts of the body with sound doctrine and practical application. The Gospel 101 and 102 classes provide an intro to Christianity and Mars Hill. Register at www.marshallchurch.org.

proxy

wednesdays, 6:45pm in the paradox

High school and junior high students are invited to gather for worship, testimony, teaching, and prayer. The purpose of this ministry is to see each student mature spiritually, physically, and in reputation as they grow closer to Christ.

jericho junction

wednesdays, 6:45pm, Mars Hill: Ballard

Jericho Junction presents the Word of God through the use of drama and puppets. Jericho Junction challenges and encourages kids. It's an artful, interesting, and exciting way for children to learn everyday application of the Bible.

"the breakfast club"

(10am saturday mornings at Mars Hill: Ballard)

Breakfast, prayer and fellowship, preparing our church for worship the following day. Show up at the Paradox, Saturdays at 10am.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
February 5 Sunday Services Capstone, 2:30pm	6	7	8 6:45pm Capstone Gospel 102 Jericho Junction Proxy	9 6:30pm Capstone Recovery Groups	10 Film & Theology: Frisbee, 6:45pm	11 Breakfast Club: 10am Outdoors: Snow Day Paradox show: 6:30pm
12 Sunday Services Kids' Ministry Training: 11:15-12:15 Capstone, 2:30pm	13	14 ST. VALENTINE'S DAY	15 6:45pm Capstone Gospel 102 Jericho Junction Proxy	16 6:30pm Capstone Recovery Groups	17 Paradox show: 7pm	18 Biblical Marriage Seminar: 12pm-5pm Breakfast Club: 3pm Outdoors: Snow-shoeing Coalition SK8: 2-4pm
19 Sunday Services Capstone, 2:30pm	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY	21	22 6:45pm Capstone Gospel 102 Jericho Junction Proxy	23 6:30pm Capstone Recovery Groups	24 Covenant Event: "Who's Your Daddy?" 7pm-9pm	25 Breakfast Club: 10am Outdoors: SCUBA Outdoors: Skiing Paradox show: 8pm
26 Sunday Services Capstone, 2:30pm	27	28	March 1 6:45pm Capstone Jericho Junction Proxy	2 6:30pm Capstone Recovery Groups	3	4 New Member Day Breakfast Club: 1pm Outdoors: Rock-climbing

also in feb. and early march

film and theology: "Frisbee" (with director David Di Sabatino) february 10, 6:45pm

What happens when the Jesus freak who started your church dies from AIDS? Director David Di Sabatino will be present to discuss his film and the controversy surrounding the life and death of hippie preacher Lonnie Frisbee.

biblical marriage seminar february 18, 12pm - 5pm

Married couples and those engaged to be married are urged to attend; the seminar is open to all. Follow the registration link at www.marshallchurch.org.

paradox concerts (Always all ages)

We're pleased to offer Mars Hill facilities as a very practical, hospitable outreach to our local music scene. Check out www.theparadox.org for more information on concerts.

february 11, 6:30pm, \$8 (\$10 door)

4th Annual Chaospalooza

february 17, 7pm, \$7

Craig Wedren (of Shudder to Think), The Dead Science & Collapsing Opposites

february 25, 7pm, \$7

Some By Sea & Hypatia Lake CD Release Show

mars hill outdoors

Contact each event leader for details on these and other Outdoors events.

february 11

Mt. Rainier Snow Day. Contact Nancyjean Tripp: jersey_climbgirl@yahoo.com

february 18

Snow-shoeing. Contact Thom Booth thombooth@emsoln.com

february 25

SCUBA. Contact Janelle Baarspul jabaarspul@yahoo.com

february 25

Back-country skiing. Contact David Skavdahl ristretto@spu.edu

march 4

Rock-climbing at Vantage. Contact: Michael Pepera- michael@pepera.org

coalition sk8

february 18, 2-4pm

Come shred at Inner Space in Seattle. Info and waiver at www.innerspaceskateboarding.com. Email Micah at setapart81@hotmail.com.

covenant

february 24, 7pm - 9pm

"Who's Your Daddy?" The Impact of your Father in your life and those around you.